Good Counsel to the Magistrates &c. 1.

Good Counsel

AND

ADVICE

UNTO THE

Magistrates and People

OF

NORWICH:

With a brief Relation of some of the Sufferings of the People of God, called,

QUAKERS

In the said CITY.

Printed in the Year, 1676.

TO THE
Magiſtrates and People of
NORWICH,

A *Relation of your Proceedings againſt your peaceable Neighbours called* Quakers, *coming to our View, we, in the pure Fear of Almighty God ſeriouſly read and conſidered the ſame; and we find them ſo contrary to the Command of God and our Lord Jeſus Chriſt, and the Doctrine and Practice of the holy Apoſtles and primitive* Chriſtians, *That we are really Sorry that you ſhould be found in ſuch a Work, who do profeſs Chriſt Jeſus to be your Lord, & the holy Command, given by him, mentioned in the holy Scriptures to be your Rule and God to be your Father, &c.*

We deſire you in the Tender Love of God, ſeriouſly to conſider how contrary theſe your proceedings are to the Command of Almighty God, whoſe expreſs Command is, Thou ſhalt love thy Neighbour as thy ſelf, thou ſhalt not bear falſe Witneſs againſt him, thou ſhalt not covet his Ox nor his Aſs, nor any thing that is his, *&c.*

And alſo conſider how contrary theſe your proceedings are to the Command of our Lord and Saviour Jeſus Chriſt, whoſe Unalterable Command is to all Chriſtians to love one another, *and not only ſo, but alſo* to love their Enemies, and to do good unto them, *&c.*

And we do deſire you to take notice that Chriſt Jeſus hath left no Command nor Example for you nor any who do profeſs to be his Servants to perſecute, ſpoyl Goods and impriſon about Faith, Worſhip and Obedience to him; for Chriſt and his Apoſtles did never perſecute about Religion; for True Faith is the Gift of God (as the Holy Scripture ſaith) and the Holy Apoſtle ſaith, That which is not of Faith is Sin, *and alſo ſaith,* let every man be fully perſwaded in his own Heart, *&c.* *And*

And we do desire you seriously to consider and obey the Command of Christ, who saith, Whatsoever ye would that men should do unto you, do ye even so unto them.

This Rule of doing as you would be done by, useth to be highly commended in Words in England, *and by many called the Golden Rule: We do from the Bottom of our Hearts desire that the Magistrates, Teachers and People of* England *and all Nations, may come to the Practice of this Golden Rule.*

We do also desire you to consider that God almighty is a pure Fountain of Love (as the Holy Apostle saith) and he also saith, They who dwell in God, they dwell in Love: *Love in Mankind one unto another is the fulfilling of the Law of God in them;* Love (*saith the Holy Apostle*) thinketh no Evil; *it doth not behave it self unseemly or uncomely; but your spoiling the Goods of your peaceable Neighbours, and imprisoning some of them (only for waiting upon God, and for worshipping him as he doth teach and command them by his good Spirit which he hath promised, & given to lead his People into all Truth) is certainly highly displeasing unto Almighty God, and of an ill Savour and uncomely in the Sight of all Tender-hearted People, who come to hear of your Harsh and Unchristian Proceedings against your peaceable and industrious Neighbours, and therefore in Tender Love to your Immortal Souls we do desire you to desist from such Proceedings; for verily, if these proceedings be not unfeignedly repented of, and forsaken, they will certainly bring the Wrath of God upon you. Oh consider seriously the time hastens, wherein you must give an Account to Almighty God for your Deeds done in the Body, and must receive a Reward accordingly; to him we do leave you, and truly desire that you may be found in those things which may please him, that his Blessing may be upon you in this World and that which is to come,*

London, *the* 11*th of the* 8*th Moneth,* 1676.

John Osgood,
William Mead,
William Shewen,
William Gibson,
Henry Snooke,
James Claypool,
Gilbert Latie,
Philip Ford.
Arthur Cooke.

The Relations of the Sufferings of the People of God called Quakers *in* Norwich *are as follow.*

ON the 1st of the Moneth called *March* last, *John Shapen* jun. for being at a peaceable Meeting to wait upon God, in *Norwich*, the 27th of the 12th Moneth last, had taken from him, by one *Beak* and *John Stone* Constables, by Warrant from *John Manser* then Mayor, *John Tennyson* & *Charles Tennyson* Informers, 5 pair of Shoes called Flyers and a Cake of Tallow.

Ditto *John Fedman*, for being at the same Meeting, had taken from him, by *William Poole* Constable, Goods worth 8s. 6d.

John Dilerance, for the same Cause, had Goods taken worth 10 s. for a Fine of 5 s. by *Edward Trull* Constable, *William Chessen* Overseer, and *Tho. Leman* Church-warden.

Ditto, *Anthony Alexander*, for being at the same Meeting, was fined for himself, and the third part of 20 l. for the House, and had as many Splightings or Hides taken out of his Fats as were worth 8 l. 17 s.

Note, Erasmus Cooper *entering* Anthony's *House, in a suddain surprizing manner, said to the Man's Wife, who was big with Child*, He came to seize all she had for the King: *She said*, That was hard, to seize all for 7 l. Fine: *He replyed*, He would not leave her a Bed to lie on: *And he went to the Shop Door, and finding it lockt, he fetcht a Pickax, and broak it open, and he and the rest of his Companions were so Cruel and Unneighbourly, that it caused Tears to trickle down the Cheeks of some of the Neighbours, who beheld them*; *the Names of his Assistants are* Nic. Becket *Constable*, Robert Clarke *Warden*, Edward Cullier *Overseer*, Edw. Makins *and* Richard Pye.

In the third Moneth last the same Officers accompanyed with two

two other (*viz.*) *Iſaac Wolfill* and *Nath. Ponder* Overſeers, went into the Yard of the ſaid *Anthony Alexander* privately by the Crick Side in a Boat, with a Warrant from *John Manſer* Mayor and *Francis Bacon* Steward, for the third Part of 20 *l.* being a Fine impoſed on him for the Cauſe aforeſaid, for which they took ſeven Dozen of Calf-Skins worth 8 *l.* 8 *s.* and commanded his Man to aſſiſt them to pull the Ware out of the Fatts, which he refuſing to do, they gave him abuſive Words; *Anthony* ſaid, *It was unreaſonable to require the Man to aſſiſt in taking his Maſter's Goods from him*; *Robert Clarke* anſwered, *They were their Goods.*

Robert Hutchiſon on the 4th of the 5th Moneth laſt, for being at a Meeting, had Houſhold-Goods taken away to the Value of above 7 *s.* by Warrant from *Tho. Checkering* Mayor, by *Richard Luesbrooke* and *John Allen* Conſtables, and *John Freeman* Warden, and *Chriſtopher Haſtead* Overſeer.

Samuel Duncon in the 5th Moneth laſt had taken from him for meeting to worſhip God, Houſhold Goods and Wares to the Value of 42 *l.* 19 *s.* 5 *d.* by Warrants ſigned by *Francis Bacon* and *John Manſer* Mayor; and *John Crow* and *Gamaliel Sugden* Wardens, *Tho. Southgate* Jun. *Edward Mayhew* Overſeers, *William Pool* pretended Conſtable, *Charles Tennyſon* Informer, *Tho. Giddens* Carter, *Tho. Woods*, *John Brown* and *Robert Phebee*, Helpers together with the Hangman.

Note, *The aforeſaid Officers took Poſſeſſion of* Samuel Duncon's *Houſe, and there kept Night and Day, from ſeventh Day in the Afternoon till the ſecond Day in the Afternoon, loading away his Goods, as if they had been their own, and breaking up Locks at their Pleaſure, keeping* Samuel's *Wife, who was big with Child, as a Priſoner in her own Houſe the firſt Night, not ſuffering her to ſpeak with any ſo much as at the Door, nor any to come to her, till ſome of the Magiſtrates being ſpoken to about it (for Shame and Cry of the People) ordered it.*

And the Reader may take Notice of the Inſolency and Vileneſs of one of the aforeſaid Informers, who boaſtingly ſaid, *He would make the Mayor wait upon him as often as he would at his Pleaſure*: Oh a ſad Age, that ſuch ungodly, vile, idle,

prophane Men ſhould be encouraged thus to vaunt themſelves againſt, or rather over the Magiſtrates of this Nation, whoſe Sword in Juſtice ought to be a Terror unto them, they being Evil-doers in the Sight of the juſt God, who hates Oppreſſion, and in the Sight of juſt Men; and it's to be lamented, that under-Officers are forced to proceed in making Havock of their peaceable Neighbours Goods againſt their Conſciences, to ſatisfie thoſe greedy Informers; as witneſs the afore-ſaid *Pool* Conſtable, when he went with the Informer to the Meeting in *Norwich* the 16th of the 5th Month, & hearing the Truth declared, he cryed with Tears in his Eyes, *What ſhall I do? I know the Power of God is among you*; and told the Informer, *That if there were a Curſe hung over any People upon the Earth, it was over he Informers*, and ſaid to *S. D.* afterwards, *That he confeſt he had ſinned againſt his Conſcience in doing what he did.*

And Note further, that ſince the taking of the ſaid Samuel Duncon's *Goods,* John Tennyſon *one of the ſaid Informers is laid up in Priſon upon an Execution for Debt; and he hath confeſt he never proſpered ſince he took in Hand that Work, and ſaid, he knew not what to do, and ſaid, if he were at Liberty, he would never meddle more: So People may ſee how badly his ill gotten Goods proſper* [illegible].

Note, John Crow *won'd not ſuffer an Account to be taken of the Goods he and the reſt of them took away of* Samuel D ncon's, *but when a Man was taking an Account, he ſnatched it from him, and put it in his Pocket; and the ſaid* Crow *finding* Samuel Duncon's *Shop ſet open the ſecond Day in the Morning, ſhut it up again himſelf; thus acting like Plunderers in Time of War, which is a Shame to Magiſtrates, that they ſhould ſuffer ſuch Things in Times of Peace.*

Since the other Account, *Nich. Becket* Conſtable, *Robert Clarke* and *Robert Sellers* Wardens, *Nathanael Ponder* Overſeer, by Warrant from *Tho. Chickering* Mayor (for a Fine of 10 Pound impoſed upon *Anthony Alexander* for the Meeting-houſe) did with the Help of *Andrew Cooper* and *William Drayton*, carry away from the ſaid *Anthony* fifteen Splitings, worth 9*l.* 15*s.* four Horſe-Hides, worth 1*l.* 10. and eleaven Couple

Couple of Wombs, worth 14 s. 8 d. in all to the Value of 11 l. 19 s. 8 d.

Some Part of the Goods that were taken away were bought by these Perſons following.

Mary Cumber of *Gregory*'s Pariſh bought ſix Cuſhions, which coſt 3 s. 6 d. a piece, for 3 s. 6 d. the Widdow *Crane* of *Giles*'s, and *Edward Cook*'s Wife of the ſame, and one *Eaton* a Cobler's Wife in *Gregory*'s Pariſh, and one *Bernard* a Sch ool-maſter bought ſeveral of the ſaid Goods.

For the Oppreſſion of the Poor, for the Sighing of the Needy, now will I ariſe (ſaith the Lord) I will ſet him in Safety from him that puffeth at him, Pſal. 12. 5.

For the Needy ſhall not alway be forgotten, the Expectation of the Poor ſhall not periſh forever.

THE END.